



January 27, 1992

Ms. MaryAnn LaFaire
U.S. EPA Region 5
Office of Public Affairs - P-19J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: EPA Contract No. 68-W9-0006
Work Assignment No. C05052
NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site
RD/RA Community Relations Support

Dear Ms. LaFaire:

Enclosed is one copy of each letter sent to those residents who attended the December committee meeting for the above-referenced site. Also enclosed is one copy of the meeting notes. As you requested, one copy of the meeting notes was attached to each letter for the recipient's review.

If you have any questions concerning the attached or the work assignment in general, please call me at (708) 255-4166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joi M. Ross", is written over a horizontal line.

Joi M. Ross
Contractor Project Manager

Attachment

cc: ~~Brad Bradley, EPA~~
Ed Schuessler, PRC
Deborah Mach, PRC

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



258621



January 27, 1992

Mr. Bob Slate
2122 Edison Avenue
Granite City, IL 62040

Re: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site
December 2, 1991 Committee Meeting

Dear Mr. Slate:

As agreed by attendees of the 12/2/91 meeting regarding the above-referenced Superfund site, minutes from the meeting have been prepared for your review and comment. A copy of the minutes is attached.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, at 11:30 am in the Granite City Hall lounge. All comments on the attached minutes will be discussed at the beginning of this meeting.

If you have any questions, please call MaryAnn LaFaire, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at (312) 886-1728 or me at (708) 255-4166.

Sincerely,


Joi M. Ross
Contractor Project Manager

Attachment

cc: MaryAnn LaFaire, EPA
Brad Bradley, EPA
Ed Schuessler, PRC



January 27, 1992

Ms. Kathy Andria
1729 Maple Street
Granite City, IL 62040

Re: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site
December 2, 1991 Committee Meeting

Dear Ms. Andria:

As agreed by attendees of the 12/2/91 meeting regarding the above-referenced Superfund site, minutes from the meeting have been prepared for your review and comment. A copy of the minutes is attached.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, at 11:30 am in the Granite City Hall lounge. All comments on the attached minutes will be discussed at the beginning of this meeting.

If you have any questions, please call MaryAnn LaFaire, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at (312) 886-1728 or me at (708) 255-4166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi M. Ross", is written over the typed name.

Jodi M. Ross
Contractor Project Manager

Attachment

cc: MaryAnn LaFaire, EPA
Brad Bradley, EPA
Ed Schuessler, PRC



January 27, 1992

Mr. Tom Candler
Alderman, Ward 5
2000 Edison Avenue
Granite City, IL 62040

Re: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site
December 2, 1991 Committee Meeting

Dear Mr. Candler:

As agreed by attendees of the 12/2/91 meeting regarding the above-referenced Superfund site, minutes from the meeting have been prepared for your review and comment. A copy of the minutes is attached.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, at 11:30 am in the Granite City Hall lounge. All comments on the attached minutes will be discussed at the beginning of this meeting.

If you have any questions, please call MaryAnn LaFaire, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at (312) 886-1728 or me at (708) 255-4166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe M. Ross", is written over the typed name.

Joe M. Ross
Contractor Project Manager

Attachment

cc: MaryAnn LaFaire, EPA
Brad Bradley, EPA
Ed Schuessler, PRC



January 27, 1992

Mr. Craig Tarpoff
2621 Madison Ave.
Granite City, IL 62040

Re: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site
December 2, 1991 Committee Meeting

Dear Mr. Tarpoff:

As agreed by attendees of the 12/2/91 meeting regarding the above-referenced Superfund site, minutes from the meeting have been prepared for your review and comment. A copy of the minutes is attached.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, at 11:30 am in the Granite City Hall lounge. All comments on the attached minutes will be discussed at the beginning of this meeting.

If you have any questions, please call MaryAnn LaFaire, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at (312) 886-1728 or me at (708) 255-4166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jbi M. Ross", is written over the typed name.

Jbi M. Ross
Contractor Project Manager

Attachment

cc: MaryAnn LaFaire, EPA
Brad Bradley, EPA
Ed Schuessler, PRC

**NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE
COMMITTEE MEETING
GRANITE CITY, IL, CITY HALL
DECEMBER 2, 1991, 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Notes

The NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund site committee met on December 2, 1991, at 3:00 pm to discuss the status of site activities and other issues of concern to members in the site community. The specific issues discussed at the meeting are summarized below. A list of meeting attendees is provided on the last page of these meeting notes.

ISSUE 1: Notes from the October 7, 1991, committee meeting

Ms. MaryAnn LaFaire, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Community Relations Coordinator, opened the meeting by asking for comments on the October 7, 1991, meeting notes. Craig Tarpoff, Granite City Alderperson, said he had no comments. Kathy Andria, President of the Homeowners' Association, said she had questions about some of the issues recorded in the meeting notes, but could not remember exactly what those questions were because she had written her questions down and did not have them with her. Tom Candler, Granite City Alderperson, said he had no comments. Others present at the meeting did not respond.

Ms. LaFaire then stated that if the committee agreed, the October 7 meeting notes would be placed in the repository. Ms. Andria asked that a notation be placed in the repository, stating that she had questions and was not in full agreement with the notes. Everyone agreed that the notes be placed in the repository with the notation requested by Ms. Andria. It was further agreed that Ms. Andria's questions would be addressed during the next scheduled committee meeting.

ISSUE 2: Status of Residential Soil Sampling

Mr. Brad Bradley, U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager, stated that residential soil sampling was running behind schedule. He explained that soil samples have been taken from over 200 residential yards, and U.S. EPA is in the process of mailing additional access agreement letters to residents who either were not included in the original mailing, or were included in the original mailing but did not respond. Mr. Bradley further stated that approximately 275 letters have been mailed, and he anticipates that all remaining access letters will be mailed by mid-January.

Mr. Tarpoff asked what the response rate was on the second round of mailings. Mr. Bradley responded that the response rate had been better than it was for the first mailing. However, during the second round of mailings, more residents responded "no" when asked to grant U.S. EPA access to their property.

Mr. Tarpoff then referred to the letter Mr. Bradley sent him, dated October 9, 1991, regarding access to residential property in Granite City. This letter stated that Mr. Tarpoff would be notified before sampling activities began and if the sampling protocol were changed. Mr. Tarpoff said he was upset, because he was not notified before sampling activities began, and he was not aware that sampling activities were ongoing until he was notified by a staff member of the Belleville News Democrat. Mr. Tarpoff further expressed that he was disturbed by other sampling issues, such as the proximity of sampling to the curbs and to peeling paint.

Mr. Bradley responded that the size and physical structure of each residential yard has to be accounted for in sampling procedures, and that the original sampling plan, which required that one sample be taken from the back yard of each property and one from the front, was changed to allow two back yard samples at residences with very small front yards. Additionally, no further samples would be collected between the sidewalk and the curb.

ISSUE 3: Status of Environmental Sampling Results

Mr. Tarpoff asked what lab had been chosen to analyze the environmental samples. Mr. Bradley responded that U.S. EPA has an obligation not to release that information. Mr. Tarpoff then rephrased his question, and asked if the samples were presently being analyzed. Mr. Bradley said he did not know. Mr. Tarpoff then asked if a laboratory had been chosen, and Mr. Bradley said he did not know.

Mr. Tarpoff asked if Mr. Bradley could make a telephone call to find out if a laboratory had been chosen, and Ms. Andria said she was also interested in knowing the answer to that question. Mr. Bradley then made a telephone call to inquire about the status of the environmental sampling, but was unable to reach the person who could answer his question. Ms. Andria said she was frustrated because the environmental sampling occurred a few months ago, and no information on the sampling results has been made available.

Mr. Bradley explained that even if information is available, it may not always be possible to release the information to the public. He further explained that any information on children and lead levels will come from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), but U.S. EPA will be able to give information on environmental sampling results.

ISSUE 4: Blood Study Results

Mr. Tarpoff and Ms. Andria expressed concern about the number of children identified as having elevated blood lead levels. Mr. Tarpoff said the majority of children who tested high during the Illinois Department of Public Health blood study had blood lead levels of between 10 and 20 micrograms per deciliter.

Mr. Bob Slate wanted to know if access agreement letters for remedial design soil sampling were sent to everyone in the site community or just selected people. Mr. Slate explained that he never received a letter during the first round of mailings, but he did receive a letter during the second round of mailings. Mr. Bradley responded that those who were not included in the first mailing should receive letters during the second mailing. Mr. Slate expressed that he was concerned about the sampling because his daughter was found to have an elevated blood lead level.

Mr. Bradley said, "this is a priority for us," and explained that residential soil samples would be analyzed in order of priority. Mr. Bradley further explained that first priority would be to analyze samples taken from areas where children were found to have elevated blood lead levels, and lead levels over 10 micrograms per deciliter will be given priority. Mr. Bradley said that the Illinois Department of Public Health will give U.S. EPA an identifier number for elevated blood lead levels, and U.S. EPA will use the identification numbers to prioritize the sampling process.

ISSUE 5: Are Monthly Meetings Useful?

The issue of November's meeting being cancelled was raised. (Note: the meeting scheduled for November 4 was cancelled, mainly due to (1) delayed flights from Chicago to St. Louis, and (2) the fact that only one person had committed to attend the meeting). Ms. Andria, Mr. Tarpoff, and Mr. Candler said that they thought a meeting would have been useful even if one or two people had been present to express their concerns.

Ms. Andria asked if all U.S. EPA sampling activities are on hold until January. Mr. Bradley affirmed that they are. Ms. Andria then said that if no activity was projected until January, then the meeting originally scheduled for January could be rescheduled, if Mr. Bradley would provide information on the environmental sampling results to the committee by December 6.

Mr. Tarpoff said that from the onset, he has viewed the monthly committee meetings as a way for U.S. EPA to fulfill a requirement. He said he was upset when he found out from a local newspaper that residential sampling had started, when the letter from Mr. Bradley stated that Mr. Tarpoff would be notified first. Mr. Tarpoff further stated that he was concerned that the meeting notes were being sent to the information repository with an attendee list merely to prove that U.S. EPA tried to be responsive -- again, just to meet a requirement.

Ms. LaFaire explained that the monthly meetings were originally established to serve the community's needs, to provide information as it became available, and to respond to previous complaints about U.S. EPA not communicating enough with the site community. She then asked if everyone present thought monthly meetings were useful, or if bimonthly meetings would better serve the needs. Ms. Andria, Mr. Tarpoff, and Mr. Candler said that a meeting in January is not necessary, because no information will be available at that time. It was agreed that the next committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 3, at 3:00 pm. Mr. Bradley and Mr. Tarpoff suggested that at each meeting, the importance of a subsequent meeting should be decided. Mr. Tarpoff suggested that if anyone has questions prior to the February meeting, they should call Mr. Bradley and leave a message so the answers can be researched before the February meeting.

ISSUE 6: Further Access Issues

Ms. Andria asked what would happen if residents do not respond to U.S. EPA's request for access to property, or if residents respond and do not agree to grant U.S. EPA access to their property. Mr. Bradley said a 2-week response period will be allowed after all letters from the second round of mailings are sent. After 2 weeks, if residents have not responded, it will be assumed that those who did not respond are not willing to grant U.S. EPA access to their property. Mr. Bradley explained that at that point, a U.S. EPA attorney will get orders to access those properties. Once the orders are obtained, those properties will be sampled.

Ms. Andria then said that she signed the access agreement form to grant U.S. EPA access to her property, but her consent was contingent upon (1) allowing split sampling, and (2) only two samples being taken from her yard. Mr. Tarpoff then interjected that because the soil sampling is being conducted in two rounds, he will take split samples when the second round of sampling activities begin. Mr. Bradley told Ms. Andria that her response would be properly handled.

Mr. Candler wanted to know who, specifically, was on U.S. EPA's list of residents to receive access agreement letters. Mr. Bradley explained that a map outlines the affected areas, and on that map, shaded areas represent the affected residential areas. Mr. Bradley said that, except for a small area between 16th and 18th streets, residents in the shaded areas of the map have received access agreement letters.

Mr. Slate asked what percentage of blood lead elevations above 25 EPA expected to find. Mr. Bradley responded that models are used to predict elevated blood lead levels, but levels can always be higher than originally anticipated because of problems such as lead in paint used in homes.

Mr. Tarpoff said that the [biokinetic] model used for Granite City indicated "0" lead from paint. In other words, the model did not consider paint as a source of lead contamination. Mr. Bradley said that as a trend, extremely high blood lead levels tend to come from paint. Mr.

Tarpoff then implied that the environmental sampling results were extremely important because of the possibility of paint contributing to elevated blood lead levels.

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Meeting Attendees:

Mr. Craig Tarpoff, Granite City Alderperson
Ms. Kathy Andria, President, Homeowners' Association
Ms. MaryAnn LaFaire, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator
Mr. Brad Bradley, U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager
Ms. Joi Ross, PRC Environmental Management, Inc., Contractor Project Manager
Mr. Tom Candler, Granite City Alderperson
Mr. Bob Slate, Granite City Resident